

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's first Office Action of November 15, 2005 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Terminal Disclaimer with respect to USSN 10/760,235, Amendment to the specification and drawings, and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

pages 1, 2, 32, and 33 of the present specification are amended to replace docket numbers with US Application numbers and US granted Patent numbers where applicable.

page 13, line 19, page 14, line 37, page 17, line 26, page 18, line 15 and page 22, line 17 of the present specification are amended to omit reference to Fig. 17C; and

Fig. 43 is amended to include the reference sign "500", as is described at page 8, lines 19-27 of the present specification.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding Provisional Double Patenting Rejections

With respect to the provisional non-statutory double patenting rejection of pending claims 1 and 8 over claims 1 and 5 of copending Application No. 10/760,235, a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) is being submitted herewith; the present application and Application No. 10/760,235 being commonly owned by the Applicant.

Regarding Drawing Objections

Regarding Fig. 17C

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendments to omit reference to Fig. 17C in the present specification, provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding reference sign "500"

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to Fig. 43 to insert the reference sign "500", provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of pending independent claim 1, and claims 2-8 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by Silverbrook et al. (US 6,439,908), for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, each printhead module 30 has two or more printhead tiles/integrated circuits 50,51 arranged on a fluid channel member 40. At least two of these printhead modules are longitudinally assembled within a casing 20 to form a printhead. Multiple printhead modules, each having multiple printhead tiles, are used in the printhead assembly so that replacement of the modules and selection of printhead length are easily provided without the need to provide individual controllers and connections for each printhead integrated circuit.

Control of the printing performed by the printhead tiles of the multiple modules is provided by arranging a number of print engine controller integrated circuits, which each controller circuit being arranged to control the printing performed by several of the printhead tiles and being interconnected to the adjacent controller(s). In this way, easy determination, removal and replacement of defective circuitry in the modular printhead is effected as a number of controllers are provided for controlling separate areas of the printhead (see page 6, lines 9-39, page 7, line 36-page 8, line 6, page 15, line 20-page 16, line 15 and page 26, lines 30-39 of the present specification). These features of the present invention are presently recited in pending independent claim 1.

On the other hand, Silverbrook discloses an arrangement in which each printhead module 12 has a single microelectromechanical chip 18 and support molding 26,28. Each module is plugged into a reservoir molding 32 housing an ink reservoir 16. Each module may be removed from the reservoir molding, however scalability of the printhead assembly 10 is not provided, as the reservoir molding is a set length (see col. 2, lines 2-34 of Silverbrook).

Further, the flexible printed circuit board 54 disclosed by Silverbrook to which the TAB films 22 of the individual printhead modules connected, does not constitute a

controller for controlling the printing performed by the chips of the modules, contrary to the Examiner's contention, let alone two of such controllers, as required by pending independent claim 1. Rather, the flexible printed circuit board has a data connector 66 for connection to such circuitry of a printer which supplies data and control to printhead assembly. That is, the flexible printed circuit board is merely an interface with no control circuitry (see col. 3, line 57-col. 4, line 28 and col. 7, lines 17-22 of Silverbrook).

Thus, Silverbrook does not disclose an arrangement in which the modules have more than one printhead chip and in which more than one (interconnected) controller is provided for controlling the printing performed by the chips. Furthermore, the disclosure of Silverbrook does not teach or suggest one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosed assembly, because Silverbrook specifically teaches that the modularity is provided by the plugging in of the modules into the reservoir molding.

Thus, the subject matter of pending independent claim 1, and claims 2-8 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Silverbrook.

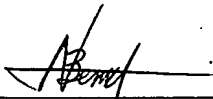
It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

Applicants:



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Amendments to the Drawings

A corrected Fig. 43 is enclosed.